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INFO RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2745  
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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EEB/IFD/OMA FOR BRIANA SAUNDERS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [WZ](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

REF: SECSTATE 98111

¶1. On September 30, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Advisor Melusi Masuku and Socio-Political Analyst Vulindlela Kunene. PolOff had discussed the fiscal transparency requirement in a prior meeting with Mr. Kunene; however the officers were still relatively unfamiliar with the requirements and potential impact of the FY 2009 Appropriations Act budget transparency provisions. They stated they would brief the relevant members of other ministries on the issue, and looked forward to discussing the matter with the Embassy in the future.

¶2. Legal Advisor Masuku indicated he expected the Finance Ministry to have specific questions on exactly where the budget falls short of U.S. benchmarks. PolOff discussed the lack of a freedom of information act, the challenges multiple budget adjustments poses to transparency, and the expenditures used by members of the royal family which observers believe come out of various sections of the budget.

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